

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A catheter assembly which includes:

at least one introducer, the at least one introducer defining at least one passage;

an elongate tubular member slidably received within the at least one passage of the at least one introducer, the tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end and at least one lumen extending between the proximal end and the distal end; and

an elongate, one-piece shape-imparting element received in the at least one lumen of the tubular member to extend from the proximal end of the tubular member and the introducer and through the distal end of the tubular member, the shape-imparting element imparting a predetermined shape to the distal end of the tubular member when the distal end of the tubular member is extended beyond a distal end of the introducer, a distal end of the shape-imparting element extending [[from]] beyond the distal end of the tubular member and being anchored proximally a distal end of the introducer and externally of the introducer.

Claim 2 (Original): The assembly of claim 1 in which a proximal end of the shape-imparting element is connectable to a control mechanism which, in use, applies torsion to the shape-imparting element to effect adjustment of the predetermined shape of the distal end of the tubular member.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The assembly of claim 1 in which the predetermined shape imparted to the distal end of the tubular member is a loop formation.

Claim 4 (Original): The assembly of claim 3 in which the tubular member forms a cranked arm when it is extended from its introducer, the cranked arm being arranged transversely with respect to a longitudinal axis of the introducer and the cranked arm leading into a spiral shape forming the loop formation.

Claim 5 (Original): The assembly of claim 4 in which the spiral shape circumscribes at least 360°.

Claim 6 (Original): The assembly of claim 4 in which the spiral shape circumscribes about 540°.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The assembly of claim 4 in which the cranked arm extends from the end of the introducer at an included angle of about, or exceeding, 90° to facilitate the formation of a substantially planar loop formation at the distal end of the [[I]] introducer.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The assembly of claim 1 in which the assembly includes at least two introducers, each introducer having a tubular member associated with it.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The assembly of claim 8 in which the at least two introducers comprise a first introducer and a second introducer, the [[a]] first introducer [[is]] being received within a passage of [[a]] the second introducer, a second tubular member, associated with the second introducer, being slidably received within a passage of the second introducer.

Claim 10 (Original): The assembly of claim 9 in which the second tubular member is carried on a shape-imparting element received within a lumen of the second tubular member so that the second tubular member is able to be formed into a second predetermined shape when the second tubular member is extended from the second introducer.

Claim 11 (Original): The assembly of claim 10 in which the shape-imparting element associated with the second tubular member extends beyond a distal end of the second tubular member.

Claim 12 (Original): The assembly of claim 11 in which a distal end of the second shape-imparting element is anchored distally with respect to the distal end of the second tubular member but proximally with respect to the distal end of the first introducer.

Claim 13 (Original): The assembly of claim 12 in which an anchor point of the first shape-imparting element is in register with an anchor point of the second shape-imparting element.

Claim 14 (Original): The assembly of claim 13 in which both anchor points are arranged on the first introducer.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The assembly of claim 10 in which each shape-imparting element is in the form of a shape memory alloy wire.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A catheter assembly which includes:

at least one introducer, the at least one introducer defining a passage;

an elongate, tubular member slidably received within the passage of the at least one introducer, the tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end and a lumen extending between the proximal end and the distal end; and

an elongate, one-piece shape-imparting element received in the lumen of the tubular member to extend from the proximal end of the tubular member and the introducer and through the distal end of the tubular member, a distal end of the shape-imparting element extending beyond a distal end of the tubular member and being anchored proximally a distal end of the introducer and externally of the introducer, the arrangement being such that, when a distal portion of the tubular member is extended beyond the distal end of the introducer, the shape-imparting element imparts a predetermined shape to the distal portion of the tubular member, the predetermined shape comprising:

a cranked arm portion extending transversely relative to a longitudinal axis of the introducer; and

a loop formation supported on the arm portion so that torsion imparted to a proximal end of the shape-imparting element causes rotation of the arm portion about the longitudinal axis of the introducer to effect adjustment of a diameter of the loop formation of the distal portion of the tubular member.